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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Resolutions on Palestinian State, Golan

NC1209124691 Paris AFP in English 1211 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, Sept 12 (AFP) - A planned Middle East peace conference must lead to the creation of a Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, Arab League foreign ministers agreed here Thursday.

The planned conference must "allow the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights, including the right of return (to their lands), of self-determination and the creation of its state on Palestinian land, with Jerusalem as its capital," they said.

Israel has declared all of Jerusalem to be its undivided capital and seeks no more than administrative autonomy for the Palestinians.

Peace can only be based on Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the ministers said in another resolution. They were reaffirming a long-held position on the PLO's role.

The chairman of the ministerial meeting, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, added that the PLO must have a role in selecting Palestinian delegates to the peace conference proposed for October. "Any authentic Palestinian representation (at the conference) must have some form of backing by the PLO," said Buwayz, addressing reporters on the final day of the session that began Tuesday.

Palestinian representation remains the principal obstacle to the proposed forum, with Israel demanding that the PLO—which it dismisses as a terrorist group—have no role whatsoever in choosing Palestinian delegates.

The PLO, designated previously by the Arab League as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, insists that it alone must be empowered to approve the Palestinian team.

Buwayz added that the council has tentatively backed a plan for the five Arab parties most directly concerned by the conflict—Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians—to meet to work out a joint stand. The five would then confer with other Arab states that are not expected to take part in the conference. "There was a general consensus on the compelling need to unify our (Arab) ranks," Buwayz said.

Another resolution called for increased contacts with the "competent" authorities in order to "end the immigration of Soviet Jews" to the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Arab foreign ministers also welcomed the U.S. plan for a peace conference sponsored by Washington and Moscow and in one of the resolutions they said the Palestinian problem "constituted the basis of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

A final resolution reaffirmed the Arab character of the Golan Heights, which Israel annexed from Syria.

Committee Formed To Coordinate Palestine Stand

NC1109184791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that a five-member committee has been formed consisting of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine. He added that the committee's task is to coordinate these countries' stands on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict and said that the committee will meet soon.

Al-Shar' gave a statement after the evening session of the Arab foreign ministers council and stressed the need for a unified Arab stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

League Chief To Mediate Iraq, Kuwait Conflict

NC1109200491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—In its edition which will appear on 12 September, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will soon visit Iraq and Kuwait. These visits are part of his efforts to resolve all the outstanding problems between the two countries, foremost among which are the issues of the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in Iraq and the demarcation of borders between the two countries on the basis of the 1932 and 1963 treaties.

The paper says that Iraq and Kuwait have agreed to seek the Arab League's arbitration to resolve all their problems and to accept its rulings.

GCC Finance Committee Meets in Riyadh 10 Sep

LD1209020191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] finance and economy ministers concluded this evening the 29th meeting of the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee, which was held at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh.

The Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee, which consists of the ministers, had commenced its meetings earlier today.

The minister of finance and national economy, Mr. Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, praised the results which stemmed from the meetings of the 29th session of the committee. In statements to the press he described the results of the meetings as good and important. He pointed out that the meetings included the discussion of

the economic aspects of the Damascus declaration. He expressed his belief that that would open new horizons for cooperation between the GCC countries and the other Arab sides.

In his turn, the Qatari minister of transportation and telecommunications and acting minister of economy and trade, Mr. Abdullah al-Mani', expressed his satisfaction with the results of the meetings of the committee. He pointed out that the meetings discussed the economic aspects and concentrated on the economic aspects.

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif Welcomes Bush's Veto Threat

JN1309082191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Manama, 13 Sep (WAKH)—A ranking Palestinian official has welcomed U.S. President George Bush's threat to veto Israel's request for U.S. loan guarantees.

Palestinian Presidential Adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif termed the U.S. President's decision an important step in the right direction.

In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM, Abu-Sharif said that in this way the U.S. President proves his credibility concerning the program he announced before Congress after the Gulf war in March.

A halt to the establishment of settlements is necessary to start negotiations. The Israeli Government's refusal to stop its settlement activity will only obstruct the peace process, Abu-Sharif said.

He added that the positions of the Israeli officials signify only one thing; namely, that the Israeli Government is tampering with the region and refusing to give up the territory it occupied in 1967.

He stressed that the United States has a major responsibility at this stage. He believed that President Bush is honest in his inclination and seriousness.

'Arafat on Peace Talks, Palestinian Politics

JN1209101591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Sep 91 p 7

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Tariq Masarwah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Masarwah] Mr. Chairman, no one disputes the importance and seriousness of the current phase. Nor does anyone dispute the fact that the broad-based Palestinian dialogue going on in London, here in Tunis, in Khartoum, and in Damascus is a dialogue of anxiety, responsibility, and caution. Beginning with the "experts" meeting in London, to the meetings with the "Salvation Front" elements here, as we said, and with "Hamas" [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements in Khartoum a few days ago, up to the meetings by the leadership that have been going on for a number of days, have you achieved unanimity, or semi-unanimity, on a Palestinian position? Are you ready to attend meetings of the frontline states—Jordan, Syria, Egypt, perhaps Lebanon, and the PLO—as proposed by Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur? Are you ready to present the outcome to the next Palestine National Council [PNC] session?

['Arafat] First, let me say that the PNC session at this phase of political action is important. However, this importance is not related to Palestinian-Jordanian coordination, Palestinian-Syrian coordination, or Palestinian-Egyptian coordination. Coordination is a strategy approved by the last PNC session. We are not saying anything new when we say the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship is a special one, or when we call and work for confederation between the Jordanian state and the Palestinian state on the basis of a free and voluntary choice by the two peoples. This was a decision taken by consecutive PNC sessions since 1983. In the next session, what was confirmed in the past will be reconfirmed. The same goes for coordination with the frontline states. In the recent PLO Central Council meetings, emphasis was laid on the formulation of an Arab position to face peace calls and conferences. We cannot face these issues individually. Our action must be in harmony and agreement, at least on the minimum level dictated by Arab interests and the Arab national security of the individual states and of all.

[Masarwah] Then do you think that, in the next few days, you will reach a clear Palestinian position to deal with the peace conference and the forthcoming visit by Baker?

['Arafat] We have our principles and positions which our brothers know, as does Mr. Baker. First, no to Israeli conditions. We cannot accept them under any circumstance because they are contrary to our own interests and the interests of our Arab nation, and contradict international legitimacy. We demand from the U.S. Administration—and we have the right to this just like any other party, particularly Israel—to have memorandums of understanding and guarantees in advance over certain issues.

[Masarwah] Have you made any requests in writing to the Americans in this regard?

['Arafat] Our delegation to the next meeting with Baker will present these requests in writing.

[Masarwah] Then you are prepared to meet with Baker next week?

['Arafat] Of course. We must be ready for this on the Palestinian and Arab levels. We hope the four-party meeting will, preferably, take place before Baker's arrival or just after, because this tour of his is very important. This point was the main topic during my discussions with his majesty the king and with President Mubarak

and the Syrian vice president in Libya. We cannot sit in a peace conference with the Israelis while we avoid each other in Arab meetings.

[Masarwah] Mr. Chairman, will that reflect on the composition of the next PNC session? Do you wish to see all Palestinians and with unanimity among all their trends in the next session?

['Arafat] Unanimity in its abstract meaning is nonexistent. Neither prophets not politicians have been able to achieve it. Therefore, political programs cannot be approved unanimously. What we try to arrive at, however, is an approval by the major forces within the Palestinian people of our political program. This is democracy.

[Masarwah] Will the Salvation Front group attend?

['Arafat] We have invited them. It is their decision.

[Masarwah] Were they positive in the latest dialogue with them?

['Arafat] Up to now, yes.

[Masarwah] Was Hamas' latest position in Khartoum more flexible?

['Arafat] They have asked for some time to study things.

[Masarwah] Will the number of PNC members increase or drop in comparison with previous PNC sessions?

['Arafat] I think it will remain the same. The main task is to unify and fortify the Palestinian position in the coming phase in order to protect national and pan-Arab interests, between which we do not differentiate. Any harm to national interests means harm to pan-Arab interests, and vice versa.

[Masarwah] Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat], let me ask marginal questions. For instance, when the head of the PLO Political Department first went to Damascus he clearly heard the following: We will not go to any peace conference without the PLO. He also heard the following statement: Tel Aviv's objections to the Palestinian representation are rejected. Either free elections are held under UN supervision, which will come up with the Palestinian representation, or else we can all accept the PLO. On his second visit, the head of the Political Department heard less clear words: We will go without the PLO and with any Palestinians. So far we have not heard anyone say: We will not go without the PLO.

['Arafat] Not exactly. Recently, I heard his majesty [King Husayn] say that the Palestinian presence in the peace conference is a basic presence. Official Egyptian statements say that representing Palestinians from inside the territories and from the diaspora is a basic matter and that the PLO is their representative.

Recently, Mr. Faruq al-Shar' repeated similar phrases in his sharp criticism of the Israeli stand.

There is an Arab consensus on the issue of Jerusalem and its importance in terms of representation and the legal negotiating position. There is also a consensus on the seriousness of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. This year and next, between 500,000 and 600,000 Jews will emigrate. This is a huge figure. This immigration does not aim to swallow Palestine alone; the entire Arab homeland is threatened—the whole of Jordan, the whole of Syria, one-third of Saudi Arabia, half of Iraq. These are their party maps and Zionist aims. Do you remember the Herut Party anthem: The River Jordan has two banks, one for us and the other for us, too? This is the motto of the Israeli ruling party. What can we say to our nation and people?

[Masarwah] What is the story of the U.S. behavior? They meet overtly and covertly in Arab Jerusalem with Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Dr. al-Agha after the latter show them the written authorization faxed to them by 'Arafat. Then the Americans arrogantly declare that the PLO is not a party. How do you explain this?

['Arafat] The Americans are trying to hide the sun with their fingers. It is odd that some Israeli opposition parties criticize Yitzhaq Shamir because he also is trying to cover the sun by rejection.

From behind the scenes, the U.S. side clearly tells us: We are aware that nothing can be done by overstepping the PLO. However, they tell us that in view of the Israeli intransigence, we should be lenient at this stage in the matter of putting the PLO at the front.

Until now, we are insisting on adhering to what we had agreed to with the Americans before the Gulf war. After Baker presented his five-point initiative, we agreed with them on the nature and form of the Palestinian delegation, including the distribution of the Palestinian representatives inside and outside the territories. We are still searching with the Americans, be it directly through our Palestinian channels or through Arab channels of Jordan, Egypt, and Syria, whom we regard as our direct partners.

After the Gulf war, the Americans thought that they could erase the Palestinian figure from the equation. Now they realize the difficulty of overstepping or canceling this figure. With whom do the Americans or others intend to make peace? With Qatar or Bahrain? Or with the Palestinians?

It is possible for the Americans to effect a settlement without the Palestinians, but they will not make peace in the region. The Camp David agreement was effected but was confined within a settlement with Egypt, a temporary settlement. We all remember the magic slogan of Carter-al-Sadat-Begin: No more wars after the October 1973 war. Many wars occurred after Camp David. Peace can only be established with the owners of the land.

[Masarwah] Mr. President, let us, so to speak, test the seriousness of the current Arab commitment to the Palestinian cause. Here, I am not referring to the

"annoyed Arabs" [of the Gulf] but to the Arabs you visit and deal with. Why don't these states protest, exercise pressure, or denounce the bloody repression of the Palestinians in Kuwait and this""transfer" of the Palestinians, which is very harmful to the Palestinian people's steadfastness on their soil. Why don't these people—at least those who are not annoyed—make a move?

['Arafat] Let me tell you that the Arab nation—and not only we the Palestinians—will pay a heavy price as a result of the Gulf crisis. What happened in the Gulf left deep wounds in the Arab body, but at the same time we want to mention what the Americans said to our delegation in Jerusalem and what they told the Syrians in Damascus. They said that not only Iraq was defeated but also the entire Arab nation, and that they—the Americans—were trying to dilute the terms of the victor, that is the Israeli victor. Schwarzkopf told Israeli radio: I fought Israel's battle.

What is happening in Kuwait now is part of this. The bloody and psychological massacres and the expulsion, humiliation, and torture of the Palestinians in Kuwait and elsewhere are not the making of the al-Sabah family militias and gangs. The real political and ethical responsibility is American, European, and, regrettably, Arab. It is the responsibility of the forces now present in Kuwait and the Gulf.

What is happening is acceptable to these forces. Had America wanted, it could have prevented these crimes. We know that it can dictate its conditions the way it forced the government of Kuwait and other countries to end the Arab boycott of Israel and the way it dictated participation in the next peace conference, payment of debts, and distribution of funds to the various Palestinian, Arab, and international parties.

[Masarwah] You say the Palestinian?! Has any Palestinian taken oil money via the Americans?

['Arafat] Yes, the one who accepts following the scheme that is hostile to his people and the PLO. This is regettably declared and some of it was exposed following the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] took $60 million from Kuwait, which is more than what the PLO obtained from the 5 percent collected from Palestinians or Kuwait's obligations for one year. This is puzzling. Abu-Nidal used to threaten them and they paid him. Did the Kuwaitis treat the Palestinians like this because they know that the PLO will not reply for fear of being accused of terrorism, or do their masters, through vile actions, want to drag the PLO or PLO parties to violent reactions in order to accuse them of terrorism?

No, No. It is not an issue of terrorism. The forces that are paid are programmed forces. The assassination of my brothers Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], and Abu Muhammad [Fakhri al-'Umari] was carried out by Abu-Nidal, but the assassination was ordered by foreign sources, the CIA and Mosad, and the senators financed it. I have evidence that proves this.

[Masarwah] Mr. President, was your latest meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak in Libya one of courtesy or of serious talk?

['Arafat] I considered the meeting positive. It is supposed to be followed by an Egyptian move to implement what was agreed between me and the president.

[Masarwah] One or two days after your meeting with the Egyptian president, a responsible source in Cairo said Egypt would no longer recognize or admit Palestinians holding Egyptian travel documents. This is a real problem for tens of thousands of Palestinians leaving the Kuwaiti hell. Iraq said it is ready to receive them but it is in a difficult situation. Do you not think that Cairo should deal with the Gazans' crisis in a better way?

['Arafat] We are seeking this in meetings beween Palestinian and Egyptian officials. We are still trying but we have not yet reached any solutions. However, we are hopeful.

[Masarwah] Abu-'Ammar, are the camps of Beirut and the south still an infuential political asset to you and the PLO, or has the regional situation turned them into a burden?

['Arafat] They are an asset. Despite their financial, social, and living burdens, they are a real part of the overall Lebanese burdens...the suffering is comprehensive.

[Masarwah] I mean here the fact that the Palestinians have handed over their heavy weapons and withdrawn from specific strategic locations. The camps and the south are threatened with Israeli invasion. Are you not concerned or afraid about the fact that the camps are now without an acceptable level of weapons?

['Arafat] This is a source of fear and concern. It also means a gap in the face of Israeli infiltration and may expose the Palestinians to massacres like Sabra and Shatila. Still, we have agreed to all the demands set by the Lebanese Government. We faced two options: Either make our people put up with burdens beyond their capacity, or bring about an inter-Arab massacre and enter into a new whirlpool. The Lebanese Army enjoys the sympathy of all Lebanese. We are also interested in having an effective and trustworthy Lebanese Government. That is why we decided to donate our heavy weapons to the army and facilitate the government's task. We know that our position was well received on the popular and official levels, and even by the army. We hope the Lebanese Government will respect that Palestinian attitude and protect and take care of the Palestinian camps.

[Masarwah] A question which may sound personal, but is not. Now, that you have lost, in a bloody and tragic way, your early comrades Abu-Iyad, Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and Abu-al-Hawl, and before them many other leaders, do you now feel that your task has become more difficult? Do you feel that you are facing a new generation of leaders, younger and more extreme?

['Arafat] Yes, yes, and I am very proud of the younger leaders whom I have called the new generals. Is anyone immortal? This is a long march. We have held the banner for a long time, and others will hold it after us. Our people are great. They have had heroes, and they will have more heroes.

[Masarwah] When you were holding discussions with the Islamists, particularly over Hamas representation in the PNC and various PLO bodies, you used to tell them that you are their representative in the PLO?

['Arafat] I still say this. I would not accept anyone saying he represents Islam. He may represent an organizational or a partisan segment that adopts this or that Islamic ideology.

[Masarwah] Back to my question. You remember, Mr. President, when we were in Khartoum attending a breakfast meeting with Islamic leaders from Jordan—['Abd-al-Rahman] Khalifah, ['Abd-al-Latif] 'Arabiyat, [Layth] Shubaylat, [Ahmad] Qutaysh [al-Azayidah], [Kamil] al-Sharif, and [Ibrahim] Ghawshah—you recalled your days in Egypt and the relationship you had at that time. Was that relationship organizational at any time?

['Arafat] No. The relationship was not organizational, but a militant one. I fought with them in Palestine in 1948.

[Masarwah] Under the command of martyr Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz?

['Arafat] No, but alongside him. I was one of the volunteers in the al-Jihad al-Muqaddas organization in 1952-1953. I was also one of the fighters in the Suez Canal, and the Muslim Brotherhood had an upper hand within the Egyptian nationalist forces. Hence, that militant relationship, with its warmth and power, was established between me and them.

[Masarwah] You were very close to late Hajj Amin al-Husayni?

['Arafat] Yes. My family is a small branch of the al-Husayni family.

[Masarwah] And your mother was from the Abu-Sa'ud family?

['Arafat] Yes. But the relationship was also a political and militant one when I volunteered for al-Jihad al-Muqaddas at the time when I was head of the Palestinian Students Union.

[Masarwah] Abu-'Ammar, going back to our subject, do you not notice that the relationship between the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah and Hamas inside the occupied territories is better than the relationship between you as PLO Hamas representatives here outside the occupied territories?

['Arafat] Yes. We know that those on the battleground agree among themselves and cooperate together more than us who are outside the battleground. But let me tell you one thing. Inside the occupied territories, Hamas is indeed Hamas, but outside the occupied territories it is the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Masarwah] Abu-'Ammar, are the Palestinians a different kind of people, unlike other humans?

['Arafat] Muslim Brothers in Egypt, Jordan, or Pakistan are part of their political systems and of the general movement in their countries. Why should the Palestinian Muslim Brothers not be part of the PLO and its policies? Why do they stand outside their state and political system?

Indeed, this is the essence of the current dialogue between us. If Muslim Brothers deal with the Arab and Islamic political systems under which they live—irrespective of the nature of this dealing—why do they make impossible conditions when they deal with the PLO, which is their organization, state, and political system?

Muslim Brothers participate in all forms of political and militant action in their Arab and Islamic countries? Why do Muslim Brothers not participate in the political Palestinian action, in its various forms?

When we had our forces in southern Lebanon, did we prevent anyone willing to fight Israel from joining us—now that they talk about holding rifles? I did not see any one of them in southern Lebanon!

[Masarwah] We have noticed, Mr. Chairman, that you are interested in establishing and encouraging an Arab-Islamic front that would generate an effective force in a dormant region, suffering from regional retreat and international hegemony. Along with other Palestinian leaders, you attended the initial conference held in Khartoum in April. Do you believe such a front stands a chance?

['Arafat] I hope so for the sake of the Arabs and Muslims. I hope the general secretariat and Dr. Hasan al-Turabi will work to expand the circle.

[Masarwah] Would you like to tell us something about your recent visit to Baghdad—and you are the first Arab leader to visit the country after the military confrontation.

['Arafat] I carried a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to the Iraqi leadership about Iraq's nuclear capabilities and Egypt's appeal for Iraq to abide

by the relevant Security Council resolution because there was a serious threat to attack Iraq if it refused!

I came out with a tragic impression as I saw the people of Iraq facing all these difficulties alone. I do not want to say more.

[Masarwah] Do you believe that the American-Atlantic-Zionist onslaught against Iraq will continue? And for how long?

['Arafat] These "victories" scored by the U.S. Administration, or scored for it, have a price. Regrettably, we have to pay this price.

I tell you that a great part of the plan to attack Iraq aimed at paralyzing, preoccupying, or weakening the country through continued state of war, threats to launch war, starvation resolutions, and stirring of internal trouble. The purpose is to impose solutions on this region and on us in the absence of a strong Iraq and cohesive Arabs.

[Masarwah] Do you think the Europeans can still be taken seriously? Do they have influence on the political movement at this stage?

['Arafat] To be fair, the European position is more advanced than the American position. Europe stresses that "the settlements are illegal", and it underscores "the Palestinian people's right to self-determination". Europe also stresses the importance and necessity of Palestinian participation in the peace process and recognizes Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories. However, the European position, regrettably, has no important weight in U.S. policy. The situation of the Arabs after the Gulf crisis, and the absence of the Soviets from the equation of international balance, have caused the Europeans to lose their importance and influence to a large extent.

[Masarwah] Abu-'Ammar, speaking of the European position, do you accept ideas like the internationalization of Jerusalem, which the Vatican apparently does not object to discussing?

['Arafat] Internationalization? This means we are not discussing Resolutions 242 and 338 but Resolution 181, the partition resolution. We cannot talk of part of this resolution and part of that resolution. Either we consider the resolution as a whole or nothing.

[Masarwah] But Mr. President, you are aware that resolutions 242 and 338 deal with three Arab states and not with the Palestinians; they refer to refugees and not to Palestinian refugees in particular.

['Arafat] I do not suppose you mean there are Jewish refugees, for instance? In the United Nations, there is nothing called Jewish refugees.

The important thing is that there is a clear U.S. recognition, which President Bush declared in his initiative. President Bush recognized the Palestinian people's rights. You are aware that the current moves are based on President Bush's initiative rather than the cliches of many resolutions. This initiative stipulates the "legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people." We take this recognition as the basis of our dealings.

[Masarwah] There is an Arab factor in which the oil-rich Arabs take a large share. Have you noticed that these states, which affect the oil factor—we may not want to call them the oil states—are not enthusiastic about supporting the Palestinians at this stage, despite the fact that the Palestinians are holding to the U.S. promises and the Bush initiative and that these states acclaim everything that Washington says?

['Arafat] So far these states have not announced a clear position, but we hope there will be pressure from the Gulf for Palestinian rights. We have followed with satisfaction the Saudi delegation's observations during the Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Turkey. We hope to hear more clear voices.

[Masarwah] Judging by reports you receive from the occupied territory, have the people's living and economic conditions reached the red lines?

['Arafat] Yes, it has reached the red lines, especially in Gaza. There is real starvation in Gaza. But for people's faith, a collapse would have taken place. The siege imposed on the Palestinian people in the occupied territory under the pretext of the Gulf war is matched by the siege, repression, and terror to which the Palestinian people outside the territories are subjected, especially in Kuwait and on the same Gulf war pretext.

Our people are being collectively punished both inside and outside the territories and by similar methods. Finally, I would like to tell you that when the Omayyad caliphs built al-Aqsa Mosque, the state's revenues from Palestine were divided into three equal parts: One part to maintain al-Aqsa Mosque, the second for the Mecca mosque, and the third to maintain the Prophet Muhammad's mosque in Medina.

This means that for many generations, the Palestinian people have paid to maintain the holiest shrines of Mecca and Medina. Now do the people in these two cities accept that the Palestinian people starve, that the Palestinian women and children starve? Does anyone know of the Gaza starvation? Have they forgotten the al-Aqsa massacre? I only say: God is great, God is great.

'Arafat's Monthly Message Reiterates Peace Terms

JN1209062991 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Sep 91

["Message" by PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat on the beginning of 47th month of the intifadah; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate [passage omitted]

O sons of our heroic people in the homeland and diaspora. My brothers and beloved ones, we are

affirming and proving again that the Palestinians are an essential factor in the Middle East equation, and that there will be no solution or peace without the establishment of our Palestinian people's inalienable rights. It is impossible to ignore this factor or to circumvent our Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights, foremost of which being holy Jerusalem, in terms of representation and holy places and as a topic, as well as our right to self-determination, until the flag of our independent state is hoisted over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Congratulations to our mujahidin, strugglers, and cadres. Congratulations to our children—our new generals. Congratulations to our men and women. Congratulations to our prisoners and detainees. Congratulations to our wounded and those pursued. Congratulations to us as our blessed popular intifadah begins a new month, approaching the fifth year of its brave, victorious march. Let us begin this new chapter in the Palestinian intifadah based on this great heritage and achievements which were [word indistinct] by the sacrifices, pain, suffering, and struggle of our people from Kuwait to southern Lebanon to our occupied land in all positions of the revolution and jihad. We are based on facts entrenched by the faith and action of our men, women, and brave children in our sacred land. [words indistinct] the intifadah will continue until liberation and national independence are wrenched. Our people will continue their relentless struggle until our land is purged of the Zionist occupiers. Our masses are daily stressing that they possess an endless ability to give, defy, and launch creative revolutionary initiatives, and seize the reins of the initiative. [passage omitted]

When our Palestine National Council [PNC] holds its 20th session in sisterly Algeria in a few days, my brothers and beloved ones, the intifadah will be present at every moment and in all topics of our PNC's agenda. [passage omitted]

Over the past three years, the Palestinian position proved to be in full harmony with the spirit of the age and with the crux of the new world position, which stresses the emergence of peoples' power and democracy. Our people's intifadah served as a good and early omen and an example which influenced many peoples in the world by indicating the huge power of [word indistinct] popular movement. From this premise, [words indistinct] peoples' successes along the path of the triumph of their democratic trend's bolster our national and democratic position as well as our determination to enhance our cause and our quest to attain freedom and national independence. Hence, we declared satisfaction with and welcomed the victory of the Soviet Union's democratic option and the (?Baltic) states' declaration of independence. We believe that this trend throughout the world is in the (?interest) of peoples and boosts our people's decision to wrench their freedom, self-determination, and national independence. This is although we know that the world order and the powers dominating it continue to adopt double standards in dealing with various issues, especially our people's cause and the Middle East problem. Based on our confidence in ourselves and in our people, however, [words indistinct] and proceeding from the strength of our stands and national constants, we dealt positively with overall U.S. political efforts in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. Our decision to allow a number of our brother strugglers in the occupied homeland to meet with the U.S. secretary of state was an indication of this. We must note the responsibility of the U.S. Administration and the international community toward providing protection for the nationalist personalities who have been instructed by the PLO to hold dialogue and contacts, especially as these personalities had been subjected to direct threat by the Israeli occupation authorities. [words indistinct] We stressed our eagerness about and response to the peace calls and efforts. We stressed that the overall U.S. efforts face a serious test. [passage indistinct] It is regrettable that the result so far is [words indistinct] and that the United States has created many obstacles concerning basic issues in order to satisfy Israel and abide by its terms and extortion.

Brothers, beloved ones: We do not see realistic horizons for practical progress in any peace process that fails to acknowledge our people's legitimate political and national rights, foremost of which being the right to self-determination, repatriation, and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab Palestinian territory, including holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state [words indistinct]. We also stress that Palestinian participation in any conference is an internal affair specified by the PLO. In no way can we yield to any foreign interference nor will we accept the Israeli conditions. [words indistinct] We will not be intimidated by threats. We want peace, not surrender. We are not demanding the impossible. We are demanding the establishment of international legitimacy and its resolutions and setting a fixed and guaranteed timetable for Israel's withdrawal from our occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa Affirms Importance of Baker's Visit

NC1309110491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1018 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed the importance of the visit which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will pay to Cairo on Tuesday as part of his tour of the region. In a statement today, Musa said that this visit takes place at a "critical time," especially as we are approaching the targeted date for the Middle East peace conference.

Musa added that Baker's visit follows the important stands U.S. President George Bush has taken to push forward the peace process and confirm the importance of the peaceful approach of the states concerned.

This will be the seventh tour of the Middle East which Baker will undertake following the liberation of Kuwait with the aim of pushing forward the peace process in the region.

During their recent summit in Moscow, U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that they would work to convene the Middle East peace conference in October.

Mubarak, UAE's Zayid Hold Talks in Cairo

NC1309060891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Egypt's distinguished guest Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], held talks last night. They discussed Arab and international developments, particularly the Middle East issue, the situation in the Gulf, and bilateral ties. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan issued a press release in which he expressed satisfaction over visiting the Arab Republic of Egypt. He said his visit will give him the chance to view the Egyptian people's great achievements. He added that his meetings with his brother President Mubarak will be an opportunity to exchange views on issues of mutual concern, saying this is part of the continuing consultation between the two countries. He expressed appreciation for Egypt's firm and courageous stand and its support for principles, truth, and legitimacy.

Five-State Coordination 'At Appropriate Time'

NC1209152491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that the coordination among the five Arab states involved in the Middle East crisis, as called for by the Arab League Council, will take place "at the appropriate time." Musa said that the five Arab states are Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, assistant foreign minister and Egypt's permanent delegate to the Arab League, noted that this is the first time the Arab League has issued unanimous resolutions supporting efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference in October.

The Arab League Council concluded its 96th session in Cairo today. The council was held at the foreign minister level.

Sudan

"Secret' Government Contacts With Pretoria

91P40431A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the mystery man who has played the role of intermediary between the Sudanese Government and the racist government of South Africa in setting up contacts leading to secret deals between the two governments is British businessman Tiny Rowland.

Informed sources disclosed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Rowland met with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, head of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council more than once during the latter's stay last month in London for medical treatment.

These sources added that the British businessman had visited Sudan a number of times and that Sudanese officials have used his private airplane to shuttle between Khartoum and London.

The director of the Foreign Ministry in the Government of South Africa has acknowledged the relations of his government with the Sudanese Government and disclosed that he had twice met with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, the first time in Khartoum and the second time in London, through an unidentified third party who acted as an intermediary in setting up these contacts.

In an attempt to justify the secret contacts which Rowland arranged between Khartoum and Pretoria, some Sudanese officials point out that the British businessman is trying to purchase the factories owned by Sudanese businessman Dr. Khalil 'Uthman, over which the Sudanese Government recently took control.

Kuwait

Ministry Denies Agreement With Iraq on Prisoners

LD1209140591 London KUNA in Arabic 0906 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Sep (KUNA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, in an interview published here today, strongly denied what was said and written on an agreement between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi Governments on prisoners and those missing.

He pointed out in the AL-WATAN interview that the Arab League secretary general considered that the League should make its own moves on the prisoner issue; thus, he sent a delegation to Iraq. Contacts were made with the Iraqi regime authorities in this regard, and "it was said that Iraq had agreed and that this is a good thing."

Al-Shahin added: "The Iraqi foreign minister, however, simultaneously distributed a memorandum which said that there were no Kuwaiti prisoners or detainees in Iraq."

He also affirmed that the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry is following up that issue and that Kuwait is making every effort to free the prisoners.

Al-Shahin said in his interview that the Human Rights Commission chairman would arrive in the next two days. He mentioned that the Iraqi authorities did not allow the Red Cross to visit jails or detention centers and categorically rejected its request.

He added that the release of the freed prisoners and detainees was carried out by the Iraqi opposition, which stormed jails and detention centers. He pointed out that Kuwait and the world were dealing with a lying regime which does not abide by rules and laws and is not interested in internationally recognized values.

As for the latest border demarcation developments, al-Shahin said that Borders Commission Chairman Dr. Tariq Razzuqi arrived and will meet his highness the heir apparent on 12 September to inform his highness of the latest outcome of the meetings in Geneva and Sweden. A full report will be submitted to the Security Council so that the Council can make the decisions it deems fit.

Envoy to U.S. on Inter-Arab, Bilateral Ties

PM1109160191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10 Sep 91 p 3

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, ambassador to the United States, by Fayhan al-'Utaybi in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-'Utaybi] The Council of Ministers recently approved the security agreement with the United States. What are its most important central points, and when will it be signed?

[Al-Sabah] It is not called a "security agreement." It is an "agreement for defense cooperation between the United States and Kuwait." This agreement has been completed, has resumed its final form, and has b. n referred to the competent quarters. The agreement guarantees the two states' interests. It also guarantees in one way or another—through joint defense cooperation—Kuwait's security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

There are a number of fundamental points in this agreement which will be announced later. And we are very optimistic because of what it contains regarding clauses and defense cooperation with the United States. We hope the agreement will be signed officially in the next two weeks.

[Al-'Utaybi] Does the agreement conflict with the Damascus Declaration?

[Al-Sabah] The agreement has nothing to do with and does not conflict with the Damascus Declaration at all. They complement one another. Kuwait cooperates at the defense and security level with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, and this too does not conflict with the conclusion of security agreements.

[Al-'Utaybi] What about the Iranian role in the Arabian Gulf region? And will the GCC states cooperate with Iran in the region's security?

[Al-Sabah] Iran is an important state and plays a major role in the security arrangements of the region, and cooperation with it is necessary and should be conducted cautiously because conditions in the region are still unclear and abnormal. We are quite willing to have security cooperation with Iran in order to guarantee the security and safety of the Gulf and the region. We always call for that approach, but some regimes do not—like the Iraqi regime, which destroyed all this cooperation by its war with Iran and invasion of Kuwait and disrupted all balances. And we must now study the security situation in the region in a way different from the past, because we have a responsibility, namely to secure Kuwait's security not only for the sake of the present generation but for posterity as well. This is why Iran should understand that Kuwait experienced a bitter predicament and has special security demands because of the Iraqi regime's threats to Kuwait. We hope to cooperate with Iran in all fields for the sake of the region's security. Kuwait has no alternative to that approach. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Utaybi] Some Arab regimes supported the Iraqi regime after its invasion of Kuwait. What is your opinion of those regimes' disappointing position?

[Al-Sabah] Some Arab states and others adopted unjust and erroneous positions by supporting Iraq during the Gulf crisis. The Iraqi regime managed to buy these regimes with its money and pay them a lot for that

support. These regimes tried hard to drag in their peoples to increase the support. And we should not forget or ignore the bad positions which these Arab regimes took against Kuwait. They should remain in the mind of every Kuwaiti and in the mind of everyone whose homeland was usurped. We will not ignore these positions, because the crisis Kuwait experienced was not easy and cannot be forgotten easily. We cannot forget these regimes which dragged their peoples into demonstrations in the streets in support of Iraq. So these regimes must pay the price for the political mistakes they made. This was in the knowledge that Kuwait had generously paid and supported these regimes which supported Iraq. Therefore I personally believe that there should not be any kind of mercy or disregard of these positions or any favors for any regime at the expense of the interests of Kuwait or its sons.

[Al-'Utaybi] What is your comment on what is being said these days about clearing the Arab atmosphere?

[Al-Nasir] There is no Arab atmosphere now. There is a divided Arab atmosphere. And if some are demanding that the Arab atmosphere be cleared, where was that atmosphere during the crisis? And what did it do for the Kuwaiti cause? Kuwait was destroyed and usurped, and it sacrificed many of its sons. And now they talk about clearing the atmosphere. What is the main aim behind that? The states with which I have always been eager to clear the atmosphere are the ones which helped in liberating my country and people. And I personally believe there is no possibility of clearing the atmosphere. The Arab League will remain an Arab league, but a purely formal one with no influence or role in that job, and the wound will remain deep in the hearts of the Kuwaitis. I am talking about clearing the Arab atmosphere like any Kuwaiti in view of the bitter experience with some Arab states. The door is open for cooperation with the states that supported us in all fields, and we will never ignore their role and favor. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Utaybi] Is the U.S. President expected to visit Kuwait, and is his highness the amir expected to visit the United States?

[Al-Nasir] His highness sent an official invitation to U.S. President George Bush to visit Kuwait and we are currently busy arranging this visit. We hope that it will take place, that we will receive the response to the invitation soon, and that a date will be set for it so it can take place at the beginning of next year. His highness the amir will visit Washington and meet with the U.S. President this month, before or after he delivers his address at the United Nations. We are busy arranging this visit. [passage omitted]

Oman

Minister Leaves for Tehran on Mediation Mission

JN1209113291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Muscat, 12 Sep (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawai Bin-'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, left Muscat today for Tehran on a two-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a pre-departure statement to ONA, Bin-'Alawi said his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran falls within the framework of the regular consultations with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. He pointed out that there are issues of interest to the two countries which require such regular consultations and said he hopes these will be crowned with success.

He stressed that his visit to Iran is not for the purpose of mediation as such, but that Oman takes interest in the fact that relations among Islamic states should be normal. He said: When the matter concerns two big countries in our Islamic world, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab Republic of Egypt, we will be happy to do all we can to ease tension in the relations between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Soviet Envoy Primakov

LD1209175191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 12 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a message from His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union.

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by His Excellency Yevgeniy Primakov, envoy of the Soviet president, when the king received him and his accompanying delegation at his office in al-Salam Palace today. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, had met earlier today with His Excellency Yevgeniy Primakov, the Soviet president's special envoy, at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest and the current situation in the region were discussed. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Yevgeniy Primakov, the special envoy of His Excellency the Soviet president, arrived in Jeddah earlier today. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan in France

WA1109134591

For Manama WAKH and Paris reportage on the visit by Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, to France, including reports on his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and French Prime Minister Edith Cresson, please see the France section of the 11 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Yemen

Officials Express Grief Over Sanaa Attack

EA1109161691 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] The General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaderships expressed their extreme grief and regret over the painful incident which led to the death of brother engineer Husayn al-Huraybi, managing director of the rural development project of the central highlands, and the wounding of Professor 'Umar al-Jawi [former director general of ADEN NEWS AGENCY and secretary of the People's Supreme Council Presidium for Unity Affairs in South Yemen], as the result of a cowardly attack with firearms this afternoon in the capital Sanaa.

As the two leaderships mourned the death of engineer Husayn al- Huraybi, they stressed that the aim of this wicked act on the part of those that plotted it was to undermine security and stability and to stir up political strife, an act that would not go unpunished. The enemies of the democracy our country enjoys will not succeed.

The leaderships of the General People's Congress and the YSP reiterated their principles regarding the cause of democracy, the sole option of our country in the path of progress. We pray for mercy on the soul of the late Husayn al-Huraybi and for solace for his family. We come from God and to God we shall return.

Salih on Relations With Saudi Arabia, Others

EA1209104391 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Excerpts] After a meeting with the German minister of cooperation in Sanaa, General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, gave a press conference to the German press and TV team. He answered a number of questions dealing with internal and external affairs. [passage omitted]

Concerning Yemen's relations with Saudi Arabia, the chairman said that Yemen on its part has no difficulty concerning the relations with Saudi Arabia. Yemen [is] establishing its relations with all its neighbors and friends. However, these relations have become inactive as a result of the Gulf crisis. We are ready to establish excellent relations with our neighbors in Saudi Arabia and any Arab country. There is no problem on the part of Yemen, but the Gulf crisis has dragged itself on the Yemeni-Saudi relations.

The chairman said that since we are neighbors, none of us can remove the other from the map of the region, so it is necessary to establish dialogue relations without interference in the internal affairs of each other. The chairman said that our country always receives guests from brotherly and other and European countries. [sentence as heard] It welcomes any visitors and any delegation that arrives in Yemen.

Concerning the Yemeni immigrants who returned to Yemen, the chairman of the Presidential Council said that the return of the Yemeni immigrants to their homeland and relatives is causing no concern. They are receiving full care and support from the Yemeni Government in accordance with its possibilities, although this is a large burden to the Yemeni economy and gives rise to enormous consequences and problems. There is nothing to threaten democracy, the roots of which are getting deeper. This is one of our options and we are not stepping back from it.

Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also (?punctuated) Yemen's positive stand on the Middle East question. He said: We hope the U.S. and James Baker's efforts will achieve security and peace in the region in a way that creates the chance for the establishment of the Palestinian state with al-Quds [Jerusalem] its capital. He said: Any obliterating of the rights of the Palestinian people's rights will jeopardize peace. [sentence as heard]

UN Team To Leave Due to Helicopter Dispute

NC1209161191 Paris AFP in English 1531 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Sept 12 (AFP) - U.N. experts are expected to leave Iraq on Friday after failing to inspect missile-launching sites in the west of the country because of Baghdad's refusal to allow the use of United Nations helicopters.

"We didn't inspect the site of the western zone because the United Nations instructed that the inspections ... should be done with the United Nations helicopters," said Tom Brock, head of the 17-member mission.

He said the Iraqi authorities had "cooperated with the mission the best they could but the United Nations directed that I would only undertake the inspection of the western zone with the U.N. helicopters."

According to Brock, U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, which set conditions for a cease-fire in the Gulf war, "provides us to be able to use our own transportations to conduct inspections."

He said Iraq disagreed with these terms.

Officials here have refused to allow the team of ballistics experts to tour the western region with choppers provided by Germany citing concerns over national security.

Instead, Baghdad proposed that its own helicopters be used by the U.N. team, as in past missions. [passage omitted]

Jordan's White Paper Exposes Arab Treachery

JN1309104391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has said the facts, information, and secrets contained in the White Paper issued by the Jordanian Government reveal, beyond doubt, that Iraq has been exposed to a conspiracy that was planned a long time ago.

In its editorial today, the paper says the facts and secrets contained in the book have aroused the anger of agent Arab regimes, particularly the Egyptian regime which instructed its official media to launch a relentless attack against Jordan and its leadership which was not based on facts, but on mere mudslinging, for which the Egyptian media organs are famous.

The paper explains that the simple Egyptian man in the street may be shocked by the incontrovertible facts detailed in the White Paper and by the degree of treachery of certain Arab heads of state who took part in paving the way and preparing for the U.S. aggression against Iraq and its people and joined the tyrannical 30-state coalition.

The paper asserts that the facts and events detailed in the White Paper confirm that the agent Arab regimes have done all they can to realize the U.S. objective of internationalizing the crisis in order to start the countdown for the unjust military aggression against Iraq and its people. They murdered every attempt since by Jordan and Iraq to find an Arab solution to the crisis that would salvage Arab solidarity on the one hand, and, on the other, check the suspect policy of the agent Kuwaiti regime and its ilk in the future and enable the nation to build its renaissance and power free from U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracies.

The paper also says that masks have fallen from the faces of certain agent Arab regimes, which have falsely shed tears over the fate of the treacherous Al Sabah family. These regimes, the paper adds, were in fact involved in the U.S. conspiracy and part of its suspect tools. The paper says: The same regimes have taken part in the crime of striking at Iraq and destroying its contemporary and advanced renaissance and joined the colonialist coalition forces to impose the economic blockade against its people. To be in harmony with the degree of their treachery and treacherous degradation, they even call in public for maintaining that blockade and endeavor to obstruct any call or recommendation by any Arab or regional gathering to lift that unfair blockade.

The paper stresses that the White Paper has exposed the treacherous roles set for certain Arab regimes, particularly the Egyptian regime that spearheaded the campaign to market U.S. military intervention and pass on the conspiracy of the 30-state coalition against Iraq and its people.

Rebel Radio Reports on Attacks, Developments

Claims French Forces Near al-Basrah

NC1209173991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Reliable sources report that the al-Shu'aybah airbase west of al-Basrah is housing French aircraft and a French infantry force equipped with sophisticated weapons.

The sources add that the French forces arrived at 1900 on Saturday, 7 September. The mission of the French forces has not yet been revealed. However, they are certainly part of the arrogant schemes against our Muslim people.

Ammunition Depots Said Destroyed

NC1209154791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] We have received the following statement from the popular forces headquarters:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers. Smite

ye above their necks and smite all their fingertips off. In truth spoke the Almighty. [Koranic verses]

The holy jihad, which the proud sons of our people have adopted, will be the only path for this revolutionary people until the world hears the news of the fall of the Ba'thist gangs at the hands of the people. Only then will the criminals and traitors get their just punishment.

Our heroic revolutionaries are still dealing heavy blows to the pillars of the collapsing regime and the centers of its humiliated forces. On Sunday, 8 September 1991, a group of our mujahidin attacked and completely destroyed two ammunition depots belonging to the 'Aflaqist mercenaries near the old industrial area behind the Ba'th Party organization building, in al-Zubayr Province.

The explosions killed and wounded a number of the regime's henchmen working in the depots and in the Ba'thist organization.

Upon completing their mission, the members of the group withdrew safely to base.

Sounds of heavy equipment and missiles exploding continued until the next morning.

Thus, our God-supported mujahidin will continue to teach the enemies of God and the people the hardest lessons in the showdown between good and evil. There is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verse]

Clashes in North

NC1209171591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Tension still prevails in areas that have been the scenes of violent clashes between the troops of the tyrant executioner Saddam and Kurdish rebels. According to reports from the north, the Saddamist troops have sustained heavy human and material losses. Hundreds of the regime's troops have been killed. A spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan has announced that the Kurdish rebels have checked an attack by the arbitrary regime troops in Dukan and captured 680 soldiers and 24 officers.

Attacks Against Southern Villages

NC1209172791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] While the malevolent Ba'thist regime launches treacherous attacks against Kurdish villages in the north, other Saddamist forces are committing similar criminal acts in the south.

Informed sources have reported that these fascist forces launched an extensive attack against innocent people in villages east of al-Qurnah and al-'Uzayr, including al-Turabah and (?Lisan 'Ujayridah). The sources added that the attack started by a heavy artillery barrage with helicopter support at 1000 on Saturday, 7 September, and continued until the next morning.

The sources add that several unarmed civilians were martyred or wounded in that [word indistinct] Ba'thist attack and that homes and furniture were burned.

The same sources note that the popular forces stationed in the region stood up to the criminal Saddamist forces and compelled them to withdraw after having inflicted human and material losses.

Clashes Seen Aimed at Blocking Talks

JN1009175791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1644 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Unattributed commentary: "So as To Calm the Situation in the [word indistinct] Areas"]

[Text] Dear listener: During the past few days, painful incidents took place in the areas of [name indistinct]. This resulted in armed clashes between the peshmergas and government forces. People were killed or wounded on both sides, in addition to [words indistinct]. The situation reached a point where the area's masses were once again displaced. Although those who created this situation have not been exposed yet, whoever they maybe, they are anarchists who seek to create such situations to achieve their despicable objectives and aims to steal and plunder, which, undoubtedly, are against the interests of the masses of the area in particular, and the Kurdistan masses in general.

Moreover, these incidents do not conform with the policy of the Kurdistan Front. In fact, they are against the front's political decisions, particularly the current negotiations between the front's delegation and the Iraqi Government in the hopes of reaching a peaceful political solution to the Kurdish issue.

The creation of such a situation has coincided with the return of the displaced Karkuk masses to their city, in accordance with the plan set by the coordination committee. So that the situation will not escalate, [words indistinct] and to check the schemes of the anarchists and those who seek personal interests, irrespective of their identities, all sides must be cautious and vigilant to calm the situation and to resort to reason and wisdom to achieve this. The Kurdistan Front and the government should also form a committee to investigate the causes that created these painful situations, to expose the identity of those who caused this, and to take tough measures against them, whether they are among those who are present in the area, and even from those who are affiliated with the Kurdistan Front or army personnel.

We are confident that the masses of the people will reject such disgraceful acts, especially since the perpetrators only seek to strike at citizens' interests, to plunder their money; to tarnish the reputation of the Kurds, the Kurdistan Front, and its personnel; and to obstruct negotiations.

It goes without saying that the masses of Kurdistan, who offered tens of thousands of martyrs, are following with a strong desire the progress of negotiations. They hope that they will achieve the aspired results to open wide horizons for them, to enjoy their rights in a democratic Iraq and in a Kurdistan of genuine autonomy, and to live in peace and stability far from wars and bloodshed.

Rebel Group Says Fighting in Karkuk Ended

NC1209144091 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Zakho, Iraq, Sept 12 (AFP) - The recent fighting between Kurdish guerrillas and Iraqi troops in the northern oil city of Karkuk ended Monday, a Kurdish rebel group said Thursday, denying an earlier report.

"There has been no more fighting around Karkuk since Monday," Nuri Ramadan of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) told AFP in this Iraqi Kurdish town on the border with Turkey. He could not confirm reports of new clashes around the Kurdish city of al-Sulaymaniyah to the east of Karkuk, near the border with Iran.

The Karkuk fighting which broke out last Saturday killed 12 civilians and four Kurdish guerrillas, while 70 civilians and 17 rebels were wounded, according to a latest toll from Kurdish sources. There were no casualty figures from the Iraqi side.

Diplomatic sources in Baghdad said Monday the clashes had left several dozen people dead or wounded, while Iraqi officials played down the impact of the fighting. They said the fighting had stopped late Monday.

But the radio of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), another rebel group, reported Wednesday that fighting was still raging in the "Kurdish neighborhoods and in the outskirts of the city (of Karkuk)." DPK chief Mas'ud Barzani said his group was not involved in the fighting.

Kurdistan Front Issues Decisions on Incidents

JN1209171591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1643 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The political leadership of the Kurdistan Front has informed political bureaus, party leaders, and organizations of the (?struggling) Kurdistan Front and [words indistinct] of the decisions it made during its 10 September meeting.

The decisions, which were communicated to all bodies of the Front regarding the events of 8 and 9 September, are as follows:

1. Allowing the return of government forces to the positions from which they were driven out in [names indistinct] areas, and informing the United Nations and the International Red Cross about this.

2. Returning government prisoners voluntarily. This is being carried out with the knowledge of the Red Cross and the United Nations.

3. Not allowing government forces to advance from the areas where they were stationed during the cease-fire to other areas in all directions.

4. The forces of the [word indistinct] of the Kurdistan Front will not carry out provocative acts against government forces, nor will they initiate military operations. They have the right to defense only.

5. A committee will be formed to look into the causes and results of the events in [words indistinct].

6. While denouncing helicopter and artillery shelling of [names indistinct] cities, the Kurdistan Front demands that the government compensate citizens for the damage and loss of lives and property.

7. Any force or party will face severe punishment if they violate these decisions.

Talabani Urges West To Oppose Attacks on Kurds

NC1209152891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has asked Britain and the other members of the UN Security Council to adopt a clear and firm position against the attacks the forces of the defeated tyrant recently launched against the Kurds.

In a letter addressed to British Prime Minister John Major, Talabani called for an end to attacks against civilian residents of northern Iraq. In his letter, Talabani said that Britain and the other UN Security Council members should provide a clear and firm response to these attacks.

Leaders on Threatened Bush Veto of Guarantees

Shamir—Issue Economic, Not Political

TA1309085691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir addressed the loan guarantee crisis for the first time this morning. In a news conference at the France-Israel Friendship Association, Shamir said that for us the loan guarantee problem is not political but economic. We need that money forthwith; the problem is that we do not have the money, which is why we need to conduct negotiations to obtain it as fast as possible. The above was provided as an update from Paris by MA'ARIV correspondent Tamar Golan.

U.S. Jews Applying Holocaust Lesson

TA1309103891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] In a closed meeting in Paris, the prime minister said that U.S. Jewry has learned its lesson from the Holocaust and that he hopes today it will find the strength to correct what it was unable to do 50 years ago. According to Mr. Shamir, at that time Jewish figures approached President Roosevelt and asked him to prevent the extermination of European Jewry, but he ordered that nothing be done. This has weighed on the conscience of American Jews ever since, said Mr. Shamir, and that is why they are very active and united, surprising administration circles in their own country.

The prime minister added that Israel has not and will not accept a choice between loyalty to its vital interests and money. Those who think it can be pressured into making concessions toward the Arabs to obtain the loan guarantees will hear this reply from us: We will remain faithful to our ideals, to Zionism, Jerusalem, and Eretz Yisra'el.

Our Paris correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that in an address before the France-Israel Alliance, the prime minister refused to directly comment on President Bush's remarks from yesterday. He stressed that the problem of the guarantees from the United States is not political but economic.

Shamir Spokesman Responds

TA1309054191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] As for reactions here to U.S. President Bush's comments: The prime minister said that Israel needs the loan guarantees to absorb the Soviet immigrants and that this is totally unrelated to the peace process and will not impede it. Mr. Shamir, who is in Paris, commented on the President's news conference via his spokesman. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports from Paris:

Following is the prime minister's spokesman's announcement: Israel requires the loan guarantees to absorb Soviet immigration. This is a humanitarian need, which we believe has nothing to do with any political issue, not even the peace process. Complying with Israel's request on this matter will, in our opinion, not interrupt the peace process.

Yitzhaq Shamir may react to President Bush's remarks only later this morning, in the course of a meeting with members of the France-Israel Association. But even before Bush made his remarks, Shamir said that even if the U.S. loan guarantees are not received, Israel will participate in the peace conference, precisely because it believes the two issues should not be linked.

In an earlier interview with LE FIGARO, Shamir expressed his opinion that President Bush bowed to Arab pressure and is thus harming the peace process.

Jerusalem 'Almost in Shock,' 'Stunned'

TA1209193991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Discussion between moderator Daniyel Pe'er and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Text] [Pe'er] President Bush's remarks this evening sounded as if he is declaring a no-holds-barred war on the State of Israel. What does Jerusalem say about this?

[Sukenik] I would say that Jerusalem is almost in shock this evening. They are stunned by what happened. President Bush's tone is familiar, but this evening the sounds are particularly unpleasant. At this very minute, hectic consultations are being held in various bureaus, certainly in the foreign minister's bureau because the prime minister is in Paris. They are consulting on how to react to this new tone, which in fact has changed the whole picture.

[Pe'er] Could such an angry statement, if I may call it that, by the President have future impact on the relations between the two countries?

[Sukenik] Yes, certainly. There is a dilemma, and Israel has a very serious problem: Prime Minister Shamir has so far refused to accept any compromise on this issue and has insisted that we get the full extent of the guarantees at this moment, from the Congress, as he asked for them, even at the price of ignoring President Bush's demand. The way President Bush presented the matter now, placing his prestige on the line, makes Israel face the dilemma of whether to accept the compromise—which will certainly be offered, and which is not bad economically—or, as some say, make the President go down on his knees, which might really cause problems later.

[Pe'er] Are these the two options Israel currently has?

[Sukenik] It is believed this evening, and I spoke to Washington just a few minutes ago, that there will be no other way but to accept an American compromise on this issue because, as we said before, the President has placed all his prestige on the line. War with the President at this

time might really bring about serious problems later. The ball is currently in the prime minister's court: The question is, will he change the vehement tone in which he demanded the guarantees, stating that he will not give up?

[Pe'er] You mentioned the economic aspect. Will such a deferral in granting us the guarantees cause economic damage to Israel?

[Sukenik] It is believed that it will not. Economically speaking, so far Israel was not harmed by this postponement. There will be a deferral, we will get some interim aid—not too terrible. The problem is the political precedent: U.S. pressure on Israel's very sensitive points might be a precedent. We are on the eve of a peace conference, and this move looks like a surrender to the Arab pressure. This is the problem. The political precedent is dangerous, and Israel will fight it.

Levi—No Clash With U.S. Sought

TA1209194691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1930 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] We just received the first Israeli official comment on the harsh remarks President Bush made this evening. This is the reaction of the bureau of Foreign Minister David Levi: He told our political correspondent that the absorption of immigrants is a noble humanitarian issue, and there is no linkage between it and the peace process. Israel does not seek a confrontation with the United States, which is its ally. We are expecting Secretary of State Baker here next Monday, and we will hold a friendly discussion with him in the spirit of the relations between the two countries.

Milo—Bush Remarks 'Counterproductive'

TA1309070591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo by anchor Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Minister Milo.

[Milo] Good morning.

[Einstein] Were you surprised by the style and content of President Bush's comments?

[Milo] I must admit that it would be legitimate to show some degree of surprise with respect to tone and style, when the President banged the lectern emphatically when he made these remarks. It seemed there was something else involved, which was not really related to the issue at hand but perhaps to domestic U.S. issues involving the administration's relations with Congress or the Senate. The issue itself, however, ultimately involves U.S. loan guarantees, not money paid by the American taxpayer; it is only guarantees for a loan for a humanitarian purpose: the absorption of the thousands of immigrants who are coming to Israel—a welcome phenomenon. We will absorb them here with or without the loan guarantees, but the President's reaction in this context was somewhat amazing.

[Einstein] Can you explain why President Bush ihsists on linking the loan guarantee issue to the peace process?

[Milo] There is no clear-cut explanation of the matter. I must say that it is very difficult to explain his position, as it should be in the President's special interest to see to it that the two issues are not linked. After all, one must bear in mind that Israel, too, could have linked certain matters, but has refrained from doing so. We gave a positive response to Baker's initiative, regardless of the loan guarantee or any other issue. We likewise complied with the U.S. appeal during the Gulf war not to intervene, which we could—and perhaps should—have done at that time. Still, we abstained from engaging in any military action at the request of the United States, which was interested in preserving the coalition it established at that time with the Arab countries. There are other points that could be brought up in this context to indicate the real and positive cooperation between the two countries. Somehow, I believe the President's conduct in this context does not correspond to the cooperation and the approach that for years have characterized relations between the United States and Israel.

[Einstein] Mr. Milo, assuming for a moment that Israel announced a freeze on the settlement activity in the territories, would that have spared us this confrontation?

[Milo] I do not think so. I think that in his statements, the President did not in any way link this to the settlements. That issue is one which has for years been a bone of contention between Israel and the United States, and the latter has often said it was legitimate for countries to differ on certain issues. We must remember, after all, that Israel's foreign and security policies are not conducted according to U.S. concepts, but according to our considerations and concepts. There have been past instances of differences of opinion, not only over settlement. Let me merely recall that when we eliminated the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the United States, including the administration, was not happy. Yet we still went ahead, and today the United States, too, knows that in terms of Israeli and regional defense considerations, that was the correct move. The same applies to other matters as well: The considerations cannot be seen in the same way from here and from there; we, after all, live here. Therefore, I believe the United States knows that we differ over the settlement subject as well, but that this has nothing to do with the issue of the loan guarantees and the new immigrants. Even the President did not link the two. I believe the link some people attempt to establish between the political process and the loan guarantees, as expressed by the President in his statement yesterday, is what the Americans call counterproductive [previous word in English], meaning that it harms rather than

supports the process. I therefore would be very happy if the U.S. position on the matter changed.

[Einstein] What should we do now? We cannot, after all, continue to harp on the argument that this is actually a humanitarian issue, because we have voiced that argument before and the fact is that the President remains unconvinced. What happens now, from our point of view?

[Milo] I think that first we must strengthen our friends in the United States, including the lobby, which has been doing a superb job for Israel there, operating legitimately and for a good cause. We must likewise support Israel's friends in Congress and in the Senate, whose current position represents a large majority that disagrees with the President. On the other hand, we must try to persuade the administration, during Baker's visit here as well, that it is necessary to retract these statements and take a far more reasonable position, as favored by the majority in the Senate and Congress and, I believe, also among the U.S. public in general and the press. Incidentally, not everyone in these two last groups supports the settlement issue, yet they see no connection between that issue and the loan guarantees. Their position is far more sensible and constructive in terms of the peace process as well.

[Einstein] In other words, Mr. Milo, you are saying that Israel should continue to entreat its friends to take action so that it will receive the loan guarantees here and at once?

[Milo] Certainly. I think our position on the matter is very just. We are not alone in thinking like this; the truth is that even the majority of the representatives in Congress and most of the senators think likewise, as does the public to which President Bush appealed yesterday. I believe his approach will not work and, his popularity in the United States notwithstanding, he will be unpersuasive. I believe that a just position ultimately wins the day and succeeds. We must therefore, in our way, try to persuade and take action. I think in the end we stand a good chance of succeeding, considering the positions expressed in the United States today.

[Einstein] But do you not think that this recipe might ultimately lead to a complete rift with the United States, as President Bush actually said explicitly last night that if there is a congressional majority, he will exercise his veto prerogative?

[Milo] I see no room for concern in this regard. The United States addresses such matters in a way that is supposed to be completely matter-of- fact. We are at the threshold of a peace process which is supposed to begin soon. There is a long list of pending bilateral issues, and I am convinced that President Bush, too, will ultimately realize that our position is really just, reasonable, and natural for us. In any case, even if he does not accept this, I do not believe such differences of opinion can affect relations between the United States and Israel, which are based on firm ground and on a broad spectrum of issues. Thus, when we maintain a position which is just and correct in every respect, as we do today, a position which furthermore enjoys such broad support in the United States, I think we must persevere, be very firm, and explain our stand well. If we do that, we will succeed and even President Bush will ultimately come around. He must understand that on this matter he, too, can make a mistake. I think that in this case our position is so right that the President, too, will ultimately be persuaded.

[Einstein] Minister Roni Milo, thank you very much.

[Milo] Thank you very much.

Comment—Bush Brings 'Moment of Truth'

TA1309110691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Sep 91 p 2

[Commentary by Washington-based correspondent Rami Tal: "The Gloves Are Off"]

[Text] Since his appearance at a news conference one day after the Iraqi invasion into Kuwait, at which he swore that "this aggression will not stand," George Bush has not been seen as enraged and as determined as he appeared last night.

Israelis and American Jews in Washington were amazed by the President's brutal remarks. Bush took off his gloves to deliver deadly, below-the-belt punches to the Jewish community and the congressmen. He made numerous analogies to the Gulf war, warning that any congressman opposing him on the deferral of guarantees would be repeating the mistake of those who had been against the war.

The President's remarks implied a clear warning to the Jews: All those who support Israel are against U.S. foreign policy. The Jews, who for years have been attempting to prove that the interests of the United States and Israel are identical, find themselves facing a very grave dilemma.

As for Israel, the President announced unequivocally: There will be no compromise. I will not undertake, either explicitly or implicitly, to support the guarantees in January. On the contrary, that is when the settlement debate will begin in earnest.

Yet all those who were surprised by the vehemence of the President's outburst can blame no one but themselves. Bush has never concealed his view that settlements are a disaster for peace. Those who thought they could take billions from America and spit in its eye by setting up new settlements—particularly each time Baker's plane approached Ben-Gurion Airport—were deluding themselves.

George Bush has just dragged a screaming and cursing Israeli Government toward its moment of truth. For nearly 24 years, Israeli Governments have been cowardly evading the need to decide whether peace is

preferable to territories or vice versa. Bush has demanded that Israel decide whether it wants peace, normal relations with the world around it, U.S. aid, and an orderly and successful absorption of immigrants, or territories and rule over another nation. And the people of Israel will apparently be required to respond to the President's question soon.

Comment—Compromise 'Honorable Way Out'

TA1309103191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Sep 91 p A1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Bush's Fists"]

[Text] This time he was speaking neither at a golf course nor from his fishing boat. The composure he displayed in the course of the past year during crises that shook the world has vanished. Last night we saw an irritated, raging Bush pound the lectern vehemently with his two fists. There has hardly been such a fuming public performance by a U.S. President since Eisenhower's ultimatum demanding an Israeli Armed Forces withdrawal from the Sinai in 1956.

Bush's rage was, first and foremost, the result of the unpleasant—from his point of view—surprise in the shape of an emerging congressional majority against his appeal to freeze the discussion on the guarantees for four months. Spoiled by popularity no previous President has enjoyed, the President did not expect and was, perhaps, even amazed by his failure to secure blind congressional backing. He has been extensively criticized for his failure to deal with U.S. domestic problems, such as the economy, education, health, and the enforcement of law and order, which are in a deep slump. This, together with congressional opposition, may prove to be the turning point in the broad support he has enjoyed so far.

The irony of the situation lies in the fact that the pit was dug by Bush himself or by the arguments he used to appeal to Congress. Had he used Israel's settlement policy to rationalize his request, he would have undoubtedly enjoyed broad support in Congress, but the linkage between aid for immigrants and the peace process, as well as the impression that the aid freeze is designed to gratify the Arabs, made it easy for the Jewish lobby to raise a ruckus and for Israel's friends in Congress to stand up to him. Even after his appearance last night, no one understands how aid to refugees contradicts or harms the peace process.

The veto threat, however, is tantamount to a declaration of war on the part of a President with whom Israel will have to live for another term. Now that it has been made patently clear that Israel cannot be harassed on every issue—and this is a point in our favor—the six-point compromise proposal can be used, after appropriate modifications are introduced, as an honorable way out of the present predicament. Neither Israel nor its friends have any interest in knocking him out in this round and in living for five more years with a President who, having resorted to his fists, will seek revenge.

Soldier's Body Returned, Deportee Arrives

TA1309060291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The body of soldier Samir As'ad was returned to Israel early this morning. Six sergeants from the Northern Command lowered the casket from an aircraft that arrived from Vienna. The body of Samir As'ad was transferred to the Forensic Institute to determine the cause of death. He will be buried at the village of Bayt Jann at 1300.

Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that the family members asked that their own pathologist participate in the examination to verify the terrorists' claim that Samir was killed in the course of an Israeli Air Force raid.

The body arrived in Vienna yesterday afternoon, where the chief military chaplain and members of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Chief Rabbinate identified it.

Also on board the aircraft from Vienna was 'Ali 'Abdallah Muhammad Hilal, who was deported five years ago. He has now been allowed to return as part of the deal for the return of Samir As'ad's body. He left the airport for his village, Abu-Dis, accompanied by a representative of the International Red Cross [IRC].

Attorney Uri Slonim, who is handling the hostage issue on behalf of the prime minister, told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the negotiations for the transfer of Samir As'ad's body were lengthy, complicated, and characterized by ups and downs. The negotiations were given a boost by the UN secretary general's initiative. Slonim, who returned from Vienna early this morning, applauded Austria and the IRC for its role in obtaining the return of the body.

AFP—Shamir Welcomes Return

AU1309102691 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Paris, Sept 13 (AFP)—Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed Friday the return of the remains of an Israeli soldier, saying he hoped it would pave the way for freedom for all hostages and solve the problem of missing prisoners in the Middle East.

"The fate of missing Israeli soldiers and hostages is a tragic human problem," Shamir told reporters. "Their families come every day to ask what the Israeli Government can do to reach a satisfactory solution."

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine returned to Israel on Thursday the remains of Israeli soldier Samir As'ad, who had disappeared in Lebanon in 1983.

Simultaneously, Israel allowed the return to his home in Israel of Palestinian union activist Ali 'Abdallah Abu-Hilal, expelled to Jordan in January 1986.

Shamir, who attended the annual meeting here of the European Democratic Union, which groups Europe's center-right parties, said the Israeli Government is "doing everything it can...on the political and diplomatic fronts" to solve the problem.

He refused to comment on U.S. President George Bush's statement Thursday that he would veto any move by Congress to give Israel loan guarantees before expiry of the 120-day delay he requested Tuesday.

Israel had asked for the 10 billion-dollar loan guarantee to provide housing for an influx of Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union.

Shamir, asked about Bush's request for the delay at a press conference Thursday, said he did not think it would damage Israel's relations with the United States, which he said has "a history of ups and downs."

Deportee Comments

TA1309081391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Report from Abu-Dis by correspondent in the territories Udi Segal—recorded]

[Text] 'Ali 'Abdallah Hilal returned to his home in the village of Abu-Dis in the Bethlehem area shortly after 0300 today, following a five-year absence resulting from his deportation. He alighted from the International Red Cross white Subaru which transported him from the airport and was welcomed by a throng of some 40 ululating family members who assembled at his parents' home. Hilal, a mustached and balding young man about 36 years old, was known in the territories to be an activist in Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. He made his mark in subversive activity and was arrested by the security forces several times and served a number of prison terms. He was deported in January 1986 after recruiting and inciting young men to join the organization's operations and act against Israel.

Shortly after his return, Hilal said that he will continue his political activity. He said he did not undertake to or sign any document that would prevent this. He said he plans to meet with Palestinian leaders in the territories and Jerusalem in the next few weeks and will discuss the Palestinian delegation for the peace talks, in which he claims he may participate. He also declared that he is a member of the Palestine National Council [PNC].

[Hilal, in English] I am a member of the National Palestinian Council, and I hope I can go to Algeria....

[Segal superimposes Hebrew translation and continues] I am a member of the PNC and I hope I can go to Algeria to participate, like every other member, in the upcoming convention. I hope I can obtain all the necessary documents from the pertinent authorities to facilitate that trip.

It should be noted that this is the first time a Palestinian resident of the territories has declared himself to be a PNC member.

'Ali Hilal was allowed to return home because that was the demand raised by the DFLP in exchange for returning the body of Samir As'ad. Before his deportation, Hilal served as the secretary of the workers union associated with Hawatimah's organization. He continued his activity in that organization in Jordan following his expulsion. Hilal said upon his return that the DFLP will continue to assist in the prisoner exchange talks.

[Hilal, in English] I think this operation will open to continue exchange between....

[Segal superimposes Hebrew translation and continues] I believe that this operation will lead to continued exchanges between Lebanese and Palestinian organizations and that Palestinian prisoners will be released in exchange for hostages. Hilal said that there is ongoing activity to establish contacts between Israel and the Lebanese organizations and that he believes it is highly likely that additional swaps will take place in the near future.

UNIFIL Spokesman on al-Naqurah Incident

TA1309122091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Two terrorist squads from the Fatah wing of the PLO landed at the UN peacekeeping base at al-Naqurah this morning and held about 15 UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] personnel hostage. The terrorists were surrounded and a shoot-out ensued. One Swedish UNIFIL soldier was killed, and six others were injured. One of the terrorists was killed, and two others were seriously injured. Three others were captured. Alan Ben-'Ami has the story:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The six terrorists, traveling in two rubber dinghies, had apparently intended to try and reach the Israeli coast, but were cut off by Navy patrol boats and headed for the Lebanese coast instead, with the Navy in pursuit. At about 0600 [0400 GMT] this morning, one dinghy with three gunmen on board landed on the beach inside the perimeter of the UNIFIL Headquarters at al-Naqurah. French guards took them captive without any fight. The three other gunmen landed on the coast a little further south and only half a kilometer away from the border crossing at Rosh Haniqra. All the terrorists were heavily armed with Kalashnikov rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, hand grenades, and explosives.

A group of six newly arrived Swedish UN soldiers were walking nearby, while eight French UN troopers were jogging along. The three armed terrorists pointed their guns at the group and ordered them into a small hut nearby. None of the soldiers was armed, and a security jeep, with two armed soldiers inside, was too far away to

do anything but raise the alarm. In the meantime, South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers arrived and surrounded the area, as Israeli Navy ships and Air Force helicopters hovered nearby. A French lieutenant colonel and a captain arrived from UN Headquarters and were allowed into the hut to try and negotiate the release of the hostages. UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel takes up the story:

[Goksel] The French officer goes in to negotiate with the Palestinians, and as he is talking with them for the release of the UN soldiers. One of the armed men goes outside the hut, and as he steps outside, there is one, first of all, there is one single shot heard, but we don't know who fired that shot; that is, everybody is arguing about this. Immediately after that, all SLA forces surrounded the place. They start firing with everything they got into that single metal hut where all the people were. And when the shooting stopped, we found that one Swedish soldier was killed, one Frenchman was badly wounded, one Swedish was badly wounded, and two more Swedes and one Frenchman were lightly injured. One Palestinian was killed immediately on the spot. A second one was very badly wounded, and he was evacuated sometime later by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. A third one, I was told, had surrendered to the South Lebanese Army. The eyewitnesses do not say that, nobody says that the initial casualties are because of IDF fire. We don't have that report from anybody.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you have any indication as of this moment what it was they were trying to do? What did they actually tell the French officer who was trying to negotiate the release of the UN personnel?

[Goksel] Well, these two groups insist that they were separate, but we don't believe that. They say they are coming from Cyprus. We find that hard to believe. There are two rubber dinghies. One we have, and the other one is in the IDF's hands. And then, more than that, it was very clear that they were on a mission to land some place, but we have no reason to think that they would be landing at al-Naqurah headquarters, coming all the way from Cyprus or wherever they were coming from. It is very clear that they made a mistake wherever they were going, wherever they were aiming at, and they say so much themselves, that they didn't know the place.

At the moment, the situation is still a bit confused. We have three Palestinians here, and we are in touch with the Lebanese authorities to decide what to do with them, and it is one of very big grief for all of us, because, first of all, there is a very young man who just came here yesterday who got killed. We hope the others pull through, and at the moment there is nothing else to say, really. [end recording]

Rightists Urge Shamir To Freeze Peace Process

TA1209153991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Right-wing party representatives have issued a demand that the prime minister make an unequivocal declaration to the United States that Israel is freezing its moves toward the peace conference until the guarantees affair is settled, one way or another.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that a meeting of right-wing party activists was attended by Ge'ula Kohen and Elyaqim Ha'etzni of the Tehiya movement; Refa'el Eytan and Yo'ash Tzidon of Tzomet; Rehav'am Ze'evi and Ya'ir Shprinzak of Moledet; and Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party.

King Husayn, Queen Nur Return From Europe

JN1209155691 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned home this afternoon at the end of a European working tour that included visits to Austria and Strasbourg. Their majesties also paid a private visit to Great Britain. [passage omitted]

King on Trip, Palestinian Representation

JN1209194791 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Interview with King Husayn upon his return from Europe, by Kassab Samawi and unidentified reporter at Amman airport on 12 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Samawi] On your European tour, how did you find the policies of the European countries concerning the peace process, and the issues that are still pending in relation to the subject?

[Husayn] Regarding the second part of your question, it seems that there are some matters that need clarification, and we are waiting for the picture to be completed on our side within a short period of time. As for the peace process, it seems that there is an international consensus to shoulder the responsibilities toward realizing a just, honorable, and lasting peace in this region, God willing.

[Samawi] You have presented the human dimension of the Gulf crisis, including the economic suffering Jordan is experiencing, and the third wave of Palestinian immigration. What was the response of the European countries? Are they going to extend urgent assistance?

[Husayn] There is much sympathy with us and much appreciation and respect for Jordan and what it represents. It is natural that as far as the humanitarian dimension goes, there is much concern over what is happening. In fact, I tried to discuss the issues and to explain all facts with the officials I met during this trip.

[Reporter] If the PLO does not reach an agreement on Palestinian representation to the peace conference, does Jordan support the holding of elections in the occupied territories to select Palestinian representatives to the conference?

[Husayn] This is premature talk at the present time. In fact I do not know the latest news here in Amman, but we hope that all will undertake their duties as much as they can in this difficult and delicate stage. The options are very limited. We have great hope in our interests which lie with the people being on their land and soil, and we hope that there will be good results. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri on Mideast Peace, Internal Developments

PM1209160591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Sep 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Prime Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Confederal Link With PLO Will Be Discussed Once Progress Made at Peace Conference"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the nature of the confederal link between Jordan and the PLO will be discussed once progress has been made in negotiations with Israel during the convening of the peace conference.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT before his departure from London for Brussels, al-Masri said that the PLO has still not decided its position on participation in the peace process and that Yasir 'Arafat has postponed a decision until the Palestine National Council session is convened.

The Jordanian prime minister pointed out that Jordan accepts the joint delegation umbrella and that the formation of joint Palestinian-Jordanian committees took place after the conviction that matters should not be left until the last moment.

He emphasized that Jordan will not go to the conference as an alternative to the PLO if the latter decides not to go. He added that the question of Jordan's attendance or nonattendance in the event of the Palestinians' nonparticipation is under discussion and that a decision on it is still pending.

He spoke about the problem of Jerusalem's representation and its importance. He said: The Jerusalem subject is important and very sensitive, not only to the Palestinians, but to the Jordanians and all Arabs and Muslims.

He added that the PLO is the quarter that will determine how this matter is dealt with, although Jordan has an opinion which gives Jerusalem a very high priority and would not countenance backtracking or abandoning it. Jordan's aim or the joint Jordanian-Palestinian aim is to deal with Jerusalem in accordance with international legitimacy and on the basis of its being part of the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Masri denied the reports that the objective in designating him to form a Jordanian Government was to resolve the Palestinian representation problem because he is of Palestinian origin. He said: I am present as Jordanian prime minister, and no Jordanian institution—whether a government or regime—intends to replace the PLO. The PLO knows this fact more than the others and senses it.

Tahir al-Masri described President George Bush's request to defer a decision on U.S. loan guarantees for Israel as a good and positive action which, in our view,

reflects seriousness in dealing with the most serious point of the Palestinian issue at present—Israeli settlement.

He pointed out that "there is extensive emigration estimated at hundreds of thousands a year, settlement in the territories, Israeli attempts to preempt matters and to create a status quo in the occupied territories by housing new emigrants there before the conference begins."

Therefore, he said, it is unreasonable while the United States is seeking to convene a conference for Israel to submit a request to obtain grants or loan guarantees for such huge sums in order to settle the emigrants.

Al-Masri emphasized that for the United States to safeguard its credibility in the peace process it had to delay the guarantees request until the subject of settlement is discussed at the conference.

Asked about U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Jordan and what he will be bringing with him, al-Masri said: "The visit will take place within the next few days. The wording of the invitations and U.S. assurances about the political process will be discussed during it, since three parties have requested written assurances from the U.S. Government. I believe that these requests will be discussed during the visit."

On internal conditions in Jordan and the impact of Muslim Brotherhood nonparticipation in the government, al-Masri said: When we formed the government we asked the Muslim Brotherhood to join it. Our request was not for tactical reasons, but was genuine, because we were expecting political events that should be dealt with in a broadly based way. The Muslim Brotherhood provides a considerable broad base for the government. This is in addition to the base the government enjoys. But—for certain reasons—it decided not to participate or even to grant us confidence. The result is that the government is doing well because we have received confidence, and life goes on with or without them, despite their strong presence on the scene or in parliament.

Tahir al-Masri refused to comment on reports about a cabinet reshuffle, saying it is "not for the prime minister, but for others to comment on such matters."

Answering a question about the date of convening a quadripartite summit for the leaders of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO, he said: Contacts are still continuing and no final date has yet been set for it.

UNIFIL Troops Taken Hostage; Captors Trapped

NC1309083991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] According to UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] sources, an anti-Israeli commando group has taken 15 UNIFIL troops hostage. The group was trying to reach the Israeli shore in a rubber dinghy. When the Israeli Army opened fire on the dinghy after disovering it off the coast near the Lebanese-Israeli border, the dinghy docked at al-Naqurah where the UNIFIL headquarters is located. Its occupants then took up a fortified position inside the building after taking 15 UNIFIL soldiers hostage, including several French troops. The sources added that the border checkpoint at al-Naqurah is currently closed to travelers.

The French UNIFIL contingent succeeded in surrounding the gunmen. Israel, meanwhile, is negotiating with UNIFIL to gain custody of the gunmen. UNIFIL, however, has rejected the Israeli request.

Palestinian Gunmen Surrender

NC1309093291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] has announced that the members of the Palestinian commando unit holding UNIFIL soldiers in al-Naqurah gave themselves up approximately at noon today. A UNIFIL source stated that a Swedish soldier was killed and two French soldiers wounded during the operation. A member of the commando unit, which according to UNIFIL belongs to Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah, was also killed as a result.

Foreign Minister Welcomes Five-State Conference

NC1209151491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has called for U.S. guarantees that UN Security Council Resolution 425 will not be linked to regional issues as a precondition for Lebanon's participation in the peace conference.

In press statements published in London today, Buwayz welcomed a conference of the five front-line states to coordinate their stand regarding the Israeli occupation.

Comments on Iranian Relations

NC1209170591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that if Resolution 425 is implemented now it will give credibility to the international conference. Buwayz also said that the future of Lebanese-Iranian relations must be based on direct ties between the two governments and two peoples, not between a faction of Lebanese society and the Iranian Government.

The foreign minister, who has returned from Cairo, said his chairmanship of the Arab League Council conference gave him the opportunity to deal with the Lebanese issue in detail and to discuss Resolution 425 and the need to support its immediate implementation.

The foreign minister noted indications that Moroccan King Hassan II may discuss the issue of the international fund to support Lebanon with the major industrialized countries at the UN session and that the establishment of this fund may be announced there.

Minister Buwayz returned to Beirut this afternoon with the official Lebanese delegation.

Hostage Issue Said Dependent on U.S. Moves

LD1309120391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] An informed Islamic source in Beirut said that continued hostage releases depend on the United States' next moves. Accoring to IRNA, he added: We cannot trust the goodwill of the other side until Shaykh 'Ubayd is released and the bodies of Islamic resistance strugglers are returned. The source stressed the need for the United States to exert pressure on the Zionist regime to expedite the work at various levels and said the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the outstanding Lebanese clergy, is very significant if the hostage release process is to continue.

Israel Expected To Free Remaining Detainees

NC1309064391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Islamic Amal Leader Husayn al-Musawi has stressed that the issue of the hostages has begun to take its natural course after the U.S. started pressuring Israel to release the detainees. Al- Musawi expected that the Israelis will release the remaining detainees held in Israeli prisons.

Israeli Soldier's Remains Passed to Red Cross

NC1209205891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] today said that it has sent the remains of an Israeli soldier who was killed in Lebanon to Vienna to be returned to his family.

In a telephone conversation with REUTER in Nicosia, DFLP spokesman Dawud al-Tilhami said Samir As'ad's remains arrived in Vienna and were received by the International Red Cross.

Inter-Fatah Fighting Reported Near Sidon

NC1309081391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Violent clashes with machine guns and hand grenades raged for half an hour in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near Sidon last night between groups loyal to rival Fatah officials Samir Hammud and Abu-Majid Ghannum. Fatah military police intervened, detained the gunmen, and organized patrols inside the camp.

Defense Minister Receives Soviet Navy Chief

JN1209182091 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister and defense minister, received at his office this evening Fleet Admiral Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernavin, commander in chief of the Soviet Navy, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by the Navy commander and a number of General Command officers. The meeting was attended on the Soviet side by the Soviet military attache in Damascus. Ties of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly armies—the Syrian and the Soviet—and means to promote these relations in the service of the two peoples in the two friendly countries were discussed.

The guest delegation arrived in Damascus at noon today. They were welcomed by the Navy commander and a number of a high-ranking General Command officers. The guest delegation also visited the martyrs cemetery in Najhah and placed a wreath on the monument to the unknown martyr.

Comment Views Renewed Arab League Activity

JN1109154491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Ordinary Arab citizens as well as those occupying official positions can admit that the present Arab situation is suffering from a defect unprecedented in modern Arab history. Restoring the unity of Arab ranks and Arab solidarity is a responsibility and duty that should be given precedence over any other. The well-known idea that the power of the Arabs lies in their unity is still and will continue to be true under all circumstances and in all cases, and perhaps it is now one of the important political ideas that the Arabs should consider and allow to materialize and succeed. The Arab situation created by the Gulf war after the Iraqi regime's invasion of fraternal Kuwait has produced mistrust among the Arabs and clearly makes the Arabs anxious about their fate and future.

The rapid international changes resulted in a new Arab concept of the coming age. The Arabs should absorb it and deal with it through a unified vision based on their interests under a new international order, which is eager to promote international legitimacy and to enable the United Nations to regulate relations among nations on the basis of justice and equality. The Arab-Israeli conflict may be passing through a most critical stage, which we have experienced during the second half of this century when the international community has made a serious effort to bring about peace in the region and achieve a comprehensive, just solution to the conflict and after Israel alone challenged the whole world by rejecting peace, sticking to the Arabs' land and rights, and declaring its disobedience to international legitimacy and its arrogant and indifferent rejection of the UN resolutions. This makes it incumbent on the Arabs to restore solidarity in the face of a danger that will not exempt anyone from its expansionist, aggressive program that has exceeded all limits.

Hence, the restoration of the Arab League's activity in light of the current circumstances may be an appropriate opportunity for drawing up a new basis for joint Arab action in order to save the Arabs from their fragmentation and disruption, to restore their self-confidence, to eliminate their differences, and to end the factors of fragmentation and dispute. Syria, which is considered by the Arabs an advocate of solidarity and a country working to heal the rift, reiterates its call on the Arabs to give priority to the nation's interests over any other interests, to sense the real danger, and to build together strong Arab relations by benefiting from past lessons, working for the future, and having confidence in the nation's energies and ability to achieve progress.

Damascus, which has honorably shouldered its pan-Arab responsibilities for generations, is ready now, as it has always been, to make the maximum contribution to arranging the Arab home, whose body has suffered decay, because it believes in this nation's genuineness, its history, and its right to life and freedom, regardless of all disasters. This nation was described: "Ye are the best of people, evolved for mankind" [Koranic verse]

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India

Federal Troopers Kill Top Sikh Militant

BK1209164291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Amritsar, India, Sept 12 (AFP)—Federal troopers shot dead Punjab's most wanted militant leader Thursday, dealing a stunning blow to the bloody Sikh campaign for a homeland in the northern Indian state, officials said here.

Militant Dashmesh Regiment Chief Bhai Sital Singh Matewal and five of his associates died in Belowal village, 45 kilometres (25 miles) from here, in one of the northern state's biggest gun battles in recent times, they said.

The Dashmesh Regiment, formed in 1989, is one of the six or seven main Sikh separatist groups campaigning in Punjab for a theocratic state called Khalistan.

Matewal's slaying was also the biggest success of Indian troopers since the killing of another top Sikh militant leader, Sukhwinder Singh Sanga, last year, they said, adding that it would setback the militants' campaign for a Sikh homeland in Punjab.

Shooting erupted early Wednesday and the first two Dashmesh Regiment separatists died later in the evening, they said, adding that the remaining militants used machineguns and rifles to keep the troopers at bay.

The 28-year-old separatist leader and two of his close aides were riddled with bullets Thursday afternoon in the operation which was launched after some 3,000 officers cordoned off the region to prevent the militants escaping.

A paramilitary central reserve police force superintendent and two Punjab policemen were injured in the marathon firefight in which the security troopers also used machineguns and AK-47 assault weapons, residents of the area said.

Police identified Matewal's aides as Gurnam Singh and Tarsem Singh Kohar, self-styled lieutenant generals of the regiment, each carrying a bounty of 38,000 dollars for their arrests.

The remaining two are yet to be identified, they said. Matewal carried a bounty of 79,000 dollars for his arrest, the highest ever placed on any Sikh separatist leader in the Punjab by the police, officials said in Amritsar, the hotbed of Sikh militancy.

He was wanted for an unspecified number of murders, attacks on security posts and police stations, abductions and blackmail.

Matewal, who attacked security posts and police stations jointly with separatists from other guerrilla groups, was also a member of the five-man Panthic Committee, the Sikh organisation which coordinates the separatist drive.

"His death is an open blessing for the security troops in Punjab because Dashmesh Regiment specially chose the police as its target," an officer supervising the anti-militant crackdown in Punjab said in New Delhi.

He said Matewal's death would set back the Sikh separatist drive as he was the second guerrilla leader to die within one month, leaving two of half a dozen main Sikh separatist organisations leaderless.

Security officials earlier this month killed Gujrant Singh Rajasthani, leader of the powerful Khalistan commando force.

Police last week foiled a planned meeting by Sikh militant and political organisations in Punjab to eulogise the slain militant who has been blamed for more than 1,000 murders.

Officials Deny Forcible Entry of Muslim Shrine

BK1209161291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir administration has denied as totally baseless and motivated the campaign that security forces entered the Hazratbal shrine on Monday last. Reports reaching New Delhi say the security forces have taken over the houses of migrants in Rainabari and some other areas in Srinagar as these were being used by the militants as their hideouts.

Meanwhile, 402 militants have surrendered in the Kashmir Valley up to July this year as compared to 72 during the same period last year.

'Militants' Losses: 14 Killed, 40 Arrested

BK1309043491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, 14 militants were killed in encounters with the security forces yesterday. Forty subversives were arrested, while the security forces recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Six of the militants were killed and 18 others arrested in the border belt when they were trying to cross over to Pakistan occupied Kashmir for arms training.

MP's 'Walk Out' of President House 13 Sep

BK1309093891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] About 70 Members of Parliament [MP] from all major political parties walked out of Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] this morning, when the president insisted that he will meet only a respresentative group of theirs as they had agreed to earlier. The MP's insisted that the president see all of them together and accept the memorandum. Rashtrpati Bhavan sources said the memorandum has been forwarded to the prime minisrter.

The memorandum demanded immediate passage of the reservation bill settling the issue of alienation of tribal land and bonded labor, implementation of Minimum Wages Act in the rural sector and representation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in government services. It also wanted legal and educational facilities for scheduled castes and an action plan for upliftment of the weaker sections.

Later, as soon as the Lok Sabha met, the Janata Dal and the left party members alleged that the scheduled caste members of parliament were not allowed to meet the president. The speaker ruled that any such reference to the president will not be allowed to be brought in the house. He invited the agitated members to his chamber to discuss the matter.

The prime minister is to meet members of the parliamentary forum for scheduled castes and tribes to discuss various issues relating to weaker sections. Mr. Narasimha Rao invited them after Mr. Ram Vlsas Paswan, Janata Dal, and Mr. Buta Singh, Congress-I informed the Lok Sabha during zero hour about the march to the Rashtrapati Bhavan by the forum this morning to submit a memorandum to highlight the plight of scheduled castes and tribes and other weaker sections. Mr. Buta Singh said he discussed the matter with the prime minister after submitting the memorandum. The prime minister had agreed to meet members of parliament belonging to scheduled castes and tribes to discuss and sort out various issues. Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] regretted that the national commission for scheduled castes and tribes with statutory status have been constituted so far.

Our parliamentary correspondent recalls that the prime minister has also called a meeting of the chief ministers to discuss atrocities on scheduled castes and tribes.

CPI Calls for Unification of Communist Movement

BK1209162491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The Communist Party of India says it stands for reunification of the communist movement on the basis of agreed principles and programs. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, said there was an urgent need for the consolidation of left forces to give a befitting reply to what he called the reactionary forces of fundamentalism, secessionism, and social injustice.

Parliament's Places of Worship Bill Viewed

BK1209161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Parliament has passed the Places of Worship Special Provisions Bill seeking to maintain status quo on places of worship as on 15th of August 1947. The disputed site in Ayodhya has been kept out of its purview. The Rajya Sabha today approved the bill by a voice vote after the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Shiv Sena members staged a walkout in protest. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill on Tuesday.

Replying to the debate, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, regretted that certain vested interests are raising petty issues to divert the attention from burning national problems like poverty, unemployment, Punjab and Kashmir. He appealed to the BJP not to create dissension in society. Mr. Chavan reiterated that the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi [disupted shrine in Ayodhya] issue can be solved through negotiations.

Our parliamentary correspondent reports that the discussion was marked by a clear divergence of views between the BJP and members belonging to all other parties.

The Congress-I Party spokesmen have welcomed the support by secular political forces for the bill. Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar and Professor C.P. Thakur have also welcomed the reported statement by the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, in London mentioning the coming together of Congress-I, the left parties, and other secular forces on national issues.

Iran

Hostage Issue, Perez de Cuellar Visit Viewed

LD1209152291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The release of the Lebanese captives and the possibility of the release of the Western hostages are the subject of our political commentary today, to which we draw your attention:

Three significant developments have occurred in connection with the release of the hostages and the prisoners of war, which have served to rekindle past hopes for progress in that regard. In Lebanon, 51 of the detainees in al-Khiyam detention center have been released. The South Lebanon Army, or, in other words, the Israeli mercenaries announced that in addition to these 51, they have handed over the bodies of nine Hizballah members to the Red Cross. In another development, the Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO], which is holding a number of Western hostages captive, announced that it hopes for a happy ending for the hostages. The RJO adds in its statement: In the current negotiations with the United Nations, an understanding has been reached on the basis of which Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the remaining captive brothers are to be freed in stages. Finally, yesterday in Tehran, the UN secretary general met with the families of the four Iranian hostages, kidnapped in Lebanon nine years ago.

These three developments can play a major role in the release of Western and Iranian hostages, and of the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees and captives held in Israeli detention centers.

With the release of two of the Western hostages in August, this complex, international issue began to unfold, moving toward final resolution. At the request of one of the hostage-taking organizations, the UN secretary general has begun a series of extensive efforts for the release of hostages, in return for the release of about 400 Lebanese and Palestinian detainees and captives held in Israeli detention centers. The hostage-taking crisis is four-dimensional. First, it involves Western countries, including America, Britain, Germany, and Italy, the citizens of which have been taken hostage. Second, the hostage-taking organizations, which in view of their repeated statements, appear to be Muslim groups. Third, the Zionist regime, which has taken captive over 400 Lebanese and Lebanese-based Palestinian resistance fighters. Last, Iran, four of whose diplomats were kidnapped in 1982, shortly after Israel's attack on Lebanon, and which enjoys an unquestionable influence over the Lebanese hostage-taking organizations. Iran wants the release of all hostages and captives, and has constantly declared its earnest readiness to use its influence over the hostage-taking organizations, conditional upon the release of the four Iranian diplomats—or the disclosure of their fate; the unfreezing of the Iranian assets held in the United States; and the receipt of the weapons it purchased. In return for this goodwill gesture from Iran, America and Israel are bent on using the hostage issue as a lever for exerting pressure. They alone have been responsible for the complications or the repeated delays in the resolution of this issue. America is against Iran's expansion of political and economic ties with Europe, constantly trying to prevent the growth of these ties by using the hostage issue as an excuse.

On the other hand, Israel, which has constantly exploited crises in the countries neighboring occupied Palestine—having itself played a role in creating some of these crises—has on many occasions set back the release of the hostages by attacking or destroying villages in southern Lebanon. On the surface, the Zionist regime has declared that it will take a step toward the release of the Lebanese and Palestinian captives, if the fate of its seven missing soldiers becomes clear. Now, it seems that the Zionist regime has been supplied with information regarding its missing soldiers in Lebanon; it has reciprocated by handing over 51 Lebanese captives and the bodies of nine Hizbollah members, to the Red Cross, while the RJO has spoken of a happy ending for the hostages. On the whole, these conditions inspire hope, but one should not forget that the Israeli regime and the American government do not regard the hostage-taking issue as a humanitarian one. It is not unlikely that the world community will witness subsequent obstructionism by Washington and Tel Aviv.

In any case, the issue of the hostages and captives must be resolved within a general and comprehensive framework; that is to say, the best solution one can envisage to this problem is to be found in the release of the four Iranian hostages, the Lebanese and Palestinian captives, and the 10 Western hostages, within a comprehensive and consistent plan. Meanwhile, political circles in Tehran are of the opinion that, notwithstanding the UN secretary general's visit to Iran and the release of 51 Lebanese captives which has provided the hostage issue with greater impetus, the main reason for Mr. Perez de Cuellar's visit is to review the clauses of Resolution 598 that have not yet been implemented; that is, the naming of the aggressor, the payment of reparations, and the establishment of security in the Persian Gulf region.

Nevertheless, propaganda monopolies and some Western governments are somehow anxious to portray the hostage issue as the main axis of the UN secretary general's visit to Tehran, so that on the one hand, they portray Iran as the chief protagonist in the hostage saga, while on the other, they turn a blind eye to developments concerning the implementation of Resolution 598. Such extortionary [baj- giraneh] approaches indicate that there is a long path ahead toward total good will.

President, Pakistani Counterpart View Issues

LD1209184691 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Visiting Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Thursday conferred with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on matters of mutual interest as well as regional and interntional issues especially those pertaining to Afghanistan and Palestine.

President Rafsanjani told his Pakistani counterpart that Iran considered it a duty to back the mojahedin and people of Afghanistan. "We believe that those who are removed from the region should not interfere in this issue. It is the inherent right of the Afghan people to decide their own fate," he added.

Hojjat ol-Eslam [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] pointed out that Iran and Pakistan, the two countries shouldering the main burden of the Afghan problem, are ready to cooperate to settle the problem of Afghanistan's innocent people. He said the five point peace plan proposed by the U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar contained positive points. "We hope that some of its (the plan's) vague points will be clarified and the question of Afghanistan will be solved politically as soon as possible," he added.

Turning to the Palestinian issue, Rafsanjani termed the problem "very serious" for both Pakistan and Iran as two Muslim countries. He expressed fears that the rights of the innocent Palestinian people might be trampled upon under the present conditions. "It is incumbent upon all Muslim countries to prevent Palestinian right from being trampled upon" the Iranian president made

it clear. He also referred to the Kashmir issue as an Islamic problem and pledged Tehran's support for Kashmiri Muslims.

Rafsanjani called for the activation of the Economic Cooperation Council (ECO) grouping Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, which he said would serve to increase cooperation among the three countries which have a combined population of over 200 million Muslims and abundant potentials. He said he smells a "plot" to divide Shiite and Sunni Muslims, by enemies scheming to prevent expansion of friendly ties between the two countries. "Some hands are feverishly trying to sow discord among Shiite and Sunni Muslims. This is a well-known tool of the colonialists, which should be seriously confronted," Rafsanjani stressed.

The Iranian president also expressed the hope that further grounds would be prepared for expansion of Tehran-Islamabad ties in all areas including transport, oil and gas, and technolgy.

President Ishaq Khan in reply said the two countries have similar outlooks concerning the international issues. "Our region lost its security after the Iraqi invasion of Iran (September 22, 1980), and this insecurity worsened with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. We believe that Persian Gulf security should be maintained by regional states and without foreign intervention," Ishaq Khan said.

Emphasizing the need for a political settlement of the Afghan issue, he said the tripartite meetings recently held in Tehran and Islamabad between Iran, Pakistan and Afghan mujahideen groups based in the two countries was "an important step in this regard." He expressed his country's readiness for further activation of multilatteral ties between the two neighbouring countries. The Pakistan president also stressed the need to support the Muslim-populated republics of the Soviet Union in the wake of the recent developments in the Soviet Union. Ishaq Khan heading a delegation arrived here today concurrently with the visit of the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Address Regional Issues

NC1309070091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani hosted a banquet last night in honor of Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his delegation, who are visiting Iran. In his remarks, the president stressed: We need unity to revive the glory of Islam and to solve the problems the Islamic world is facing. The Islamic Republic of Iran believed from the very outset that if the world's Muslims joined hands, they would achieve the necessary power to reestablish the glory of Islam.

At the banquet, which also was attended by Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general; Sebghatollah Mojaddadi, president of the Afghan provisional government; and Mortazavi, spokesman of the Islamic Unity Party, Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the Afghanistan problem as one of the important faced by the world of Islam and stated that the final solution to the problem can be achieved only if the people of Afghanistan choose their fate freely and without foreign intervention.

The president also termed the struggles of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan during the past 13 years as the source of that nation's dignity. On the Palestinian problem, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: We believe that the return of holy Jerusalem to the world of Islam and the revival of the Palestinians' rights cannot be achieved through compromise and the formation of so-called peace conferences. The Islamic ummah can win only through unity and by supporting the Palestinians' persistent struggles.

The president also described the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, as an outstanding example of cooperation in the region and expressed hope that the ECO summit in Tehran will serve as a significant step toward the organization's development.

On unequal relations between rich and poor countries, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Relying on their manpower, financial resources, and other capabilities, poor countries will be able—with the help of the Almighty—to favorably use their resources.

On Persian Gulf security, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: The presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf is actually the reason for intensified tension in the region and we believe that the Persian Gulf countries can ensure and safeguard regional security through solidarity.

Pointing out that one of the important pillars of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy is defending the rights of the world's Muslims, the president stated: The clear stances that have been adopted on the suppression of the Kashmiri Muslims is proof of this and we will continue our efforts to end the oppression of the Kashmiri Muslims.

In conclusion, the president thanked the UN secretary general for solving regional crises and especially the Afghanistan problem and the full implementation of Resolution 598. The Pakistani president also pointed to the two countries' historic ties and said: Today's talks showed that the two countries have similar views on major problems and we have common views on ways to overcome problems.

Paying his respects to the pure soul of the late Imam, he added: Iran's Islamic revolution awakened the desire of the Pakistani people to find more self-confidence in the continuation of their efforts for the implementation of the Islamic system.

The Pakistani president expressed hope that Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey will be able transform tripartite cooperation into meaningful reality within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization. On the Afghanistan problem, he said: We continue our efforts next to Iran on solving the Afghanistan problem on the basis of what the Afghan people want and without foreign intervention.

On Iraq's attack on Kuwait and on the recent tragedy in the Persian Gulf, the Pakistani president said: This tragedy inflicted the heaviest blows on the body of the Islamic ummah and once again emphasized the need for unity among the ranks of the Muslims. In conclusion, Ghulan Ishaq Khan invited Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay an official visit to Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

Military Reports 460 Killed in Offensive

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[Text] Colombo, Sept 13 (AFP)—Thousands of heavily armed soldiers Friday were trying to capture another Tamil guerrilla hideout in Sri Lanka's northeastern jungles as the death toll in fierce battles rose to some 460, the military here said. Intense hand-to-hand fighting was taking place outside the camp of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in coastal Mullaitivu district early Friday, an army spokesman said.

Two of a dozen camps making up the LTTE's main command centre have already been reported captured since Operation Lightning Strike, the biggest assault yet by the Sri Lankan Army on the Tigers, was launched September 2. The spokesman said six soldiers and five guerrillas were killed overnight. Two officers and 16 soldiers were also seriously wounded, raising to 65 the number of troops hospitalised so far. Hospital sources put army fatalities up to mid-day Thursday at 52, while the military said it had killed 402 guerrillas in ground, air and sea operations.

The army is using artillery, helicopters and gunboats in a bid to prevent LTTE movements. Local press reports said women cadres of the LTTE known as Freedom Birds came out of trenches and engaged advancing government forces. "You could say that the entire army is involved in this operation," army Colonel Sarath Munasinghe told reporters here Thursday. "This is our biggest ever jungle operation against the LTTE."

Sri Lanka's army has some 70,000 men out of whom about half are active combatants. The LTTE has given no official reaction to the ongoing battle but travellers from the rebel's main stronghold of Jaffna, further north, have said that guerrillas were seen moving towards Mullaitivu. Last month, the army lifted an LTTE siege on a strategic army camp in the north after killing hundreds of guerrillas and losing 186 of their own men.

More than 10,500 people have died in bitter fighting since the LTTE ended 14 months of peace talks with Colombo in June last year to renew its campaign for a separate state called Eelam for Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority.